Comprehensive Catalog of

All Active USA Military Weapons

Systems and Their Operational Use

Covering All Six Branches of the U.S. Armed Forces

Army | Navy | Air Force | Marine Corps | Coast Guard | Space Force

Including: Nuclear Triad | Special Operations | Missiles | Drones | Directed Energy

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1. Executive Overview

The United States possesses the most powerful and technologically advanced military arsenal in the world, spanning all six branches of its armed forces: the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Space Force. As of early 2026, the U.S. Department of Defense maintains an estimated annual budget exceeding $880 billion, enabling the procurement, sustainment, and modernization of thousands of distinct weapon systems that range from individual infantry weapons to intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads across the globe. This catalog provides a comprehensive overview of every major weapon system currently in active service, organized by branch and category, along with detailed descriptions of their operational use.

The U.S. military strategy in 2026 is shaped by the National Defense Strategy, which identifies China and Russia as the most consequential strategic competitors. In response, the Department of Defense has accelerated modernization efforts across all domains, with particular emphasis on hypersonic weapons, autonomous systems, artificial intelligence-enabled platforms, and next-generation air and naval platforms. Concurrently, legacy systems such as the M1A2 Abrams main battle tank, the F-16 Fighting Falcon, and the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier continue to serve as the backbone of U.S. combat power, undergoing continuous upgrades to remain relevant against evolving threats. The nuclear triad remains central to strategic deterrence, with approximately 1,770 warheads deployed across land-based Minuteman III missiles, Trident submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and strategic bombers.

This document is organized into the following major sections: individual small arms and crew-served weapons, vehicle-mounted and artillery systems, aviation platforms (both manned and unmanned), naval vessels and subsurface combatants, missile systems (tactical, strategic, and defensive), nuclear weapons and delivery systems, directed energy and emerging technology weapons, Coast Guard patrol and interdiction assets, Space Force and cyber/electronic warfare capabilities, and Special Operations Forces equipment. Each entry includes the weapon designation, its primary user branch, approximate numbers in service where available, and a detailed description of its operational role and combat employment.

2. Small Arms and Infantry Weapons

Small arms constitute the most widely distributed class of weapons in the U.S. military, carried by millions of service members across all branches. These weapons serve as the foundational layer of combat capability, enabling individual soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines to engage targets at ranges from close quarters out to several hundred meters. The current U.S. small arms inventory is in the midst of a significant modernization transition, with the adoption of the XM7 rifle and XM250 automatic rifle chambered in 6.8x51mm as part of the Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW) program, gradually replacing the legacy 5.56mm M4A1 carbine and M249 Squad Automatic Weapon that have been in service since the 1990s and 1980s respectively.

2.1 Rifles and Carbines

Designation	Caliber	Effective Range	Primary Users	Role and Use
M4A1 Carbine	5.56x45mm NATO	500 m	Army, USMC, SOF	Standard-issue carbine for close-to-medium range combat. Gas-operated, selective-fire weapon with Picatinny rail for optics and accessories. Primary individual weapon for the vast majority of U.S. ground forces.
XM7 (NGSW-Rifle)	6.8x51mm	600 m	Army (fielding)	Next-generation assault rifle replacing the M4A1. Features advanced fire control system with integrated optic, variable magnification, and ballistic calculator. Designed to defeat modern body armor at extended ranges.
M16A4 Rifle	5.56x45mm NATO	550 m	USMC, Navy (limited)	Full-length variant of the M16 family used primarily by the Marine Corps for designated marksman and some training roles. Being phased out in favor of M4A1 and M27 IAR.
M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle	5.56x45mm NATO	550 m	USMC	Heavier-barreled variant of the HK416 adopted by the Marine Corps as the standard automatic rifle. Provides sustained suppressive fire while maintaining rifle-level accuracy.
MK 18 Mod 1 CQBR	5.56x45mm NATO	300 m	Navy (SEALs), SOCOM	Short-barreled carbine optimized for close-quarters battle (CQB) operations. Used extensively by Naval Special Warfare and Special Operations units in maritime boarding, urban, and confined-space engagements.
M110A1 SDMR	7.62x51mm NATO	800 m	Army, USMC	Squad Designated Marksman Rifle based on the HK G28 platform. Provides precision fire at extended range within infantry squads, bridging the gap between standard rifles and sniper systems.

Table 1. Active U.S. Military Rifles and Carbines (2026)

2.2 Machine Guns and Crew-Served Weapons

Designation	Type	Caliber	Effective Range	Role and Use
M249 SAW	Squad Automatic	5.56x45mm	800 m	Light machine gun providing squad-level suppressive fire. Belt or magazine-fed, gas-operated. Being supplemented by the XM250 in Army units.
XM250 (NGSW-AR)	Automatic Rifle	6.8x51mm	800 m	Next-generation automatic rifle replacing the M249. Part of the NGSW program, it features a lighter weight, improved ergonomics, and greater lethality against armored targets.

Designation	Type	Caliber	Effective Range	Role and Use
M240B / M240L	General Purpose MG	7.62x51mm	1,100 m	Medium machine gun used at the company and battalion level. Vehicle-mounted and dismountable. The M240L variant uses titanium components for reduced weight. Primary suppressive fire weapon for infantry units.
M2A1 .50 Cal	Heavy Machine Gun	12.7x99mm	1,800 m	The iconic "Ma Deuce" heavy machine gun in service since World War II. Used on vehicles, aircraft, naval vessels, and ground mounts for anti-vehicle, anti-aircraft, and fortification destruction. Updated A1 variant features quick-change barrel.
Mk 48 Mod 0/1	Light MG (SOF)	7.62x51mm	1,000 m	Lightweight belt-fed machine gun designed for SOF. Used by Navy SEALs and Army Special Forces where weight is critical. Provides heavy firepower in a man-portable package.
Mk 19 Mod 3	Grenade MG	40x53mm	2,200 m	Automatic grenade launcher providing devastating area suppression. Vehicle-mounted on Humvees, MRAPs, and watercraft. Fires high-explosive dual-purpose (HEDP) rounds effective against personnel and light armor.
M320 / M203	Grenade Launcher	40x46mm	400 m	Under-barrel or standalone grenade launchers for direct and indirect fire against point and area targets. The M320 is the modern replacement for the M203, featuring a side-opening breach and standalone firing capability.

Table 2. Active U.S. Military Machine Guns and Crew-Served Weapons (2026)

2.3 Sniper and Precision Rifle Systems

Designation	Caliber	Effective Range	Primary Users	Role and Use
M2010 Enhanced SR	7.62x51mm	1,000 m	Army	Standard bolt-action sniper rifle replacing the M24. Features a modular chassis system, suppressor-ready barrel, and adjustable stock. Used for precision engagement of personnel and materiel.
M107A1 / M82A3	12.7x99mm (.50 BMG)	1,800 m	Army, USMC, SOF	Semi-automatic anti-materiel rifle capable of defeating light armor, vehicles, equipment, and unexploded ordnance at extreme range. Also employed in counter-sniper roles.
M110 Semi-Auto SR	7.62x51mm	800 m	Army, SOF	Semi-automatic precision rifle for designated marksman and sniper applications. Provides rapid follow-up shots. The M110A1 CSASS variant is the upgraded version with improved reliability.
MK 21 Precision Rifle	.338 Lapua Mag	1,500 m	SOCOM, USMC	Advanced sniper rifle system chambered in .338 Lapua Magnum for extended-range engagements beyond the capability of 7.62mm systems. Used by SOF and Marine Scout Snipers.

Designation	Caliber	Effective Range	Primary Users	Role and Use
M24 Sniper Weapon System	7.62x51mm / .300 WM	1,000 m	Army (limited)	Legacy bolt-action sniper system being phased out in favor of M2010. Some units still field the .300 Winchester Magnum variant for extended range engagements.

Table 3. Active U.S. Sniper and Precision Rifle Systems (2026)

2.4 Shotguns and Sidearms

Designation	Type	Caliber	Users	Role and Use
M17 / M18 (MHS)	Semi-Auto Pistol	9x19mm NATO	All Branches	The Modular Handgun System (MHS) replaced the Beretta M9 as the standard-issue sidearm. The M17 (full-size) and M18 (compact) are variants of the SIG Sauer P320 platform. Features a modular grip, striker-fired action, and accessory rail.
M9A3	Semi-Auto Pistol	9x19mm	Navy, limited	Updated variant of the legacy Beretta M9 still in limited use by some Navy and support units during the transition to M17/M18.
M500 / M590 Shotgun	Pump-Actio n Shotgun	12 Gauge	Army, USMC, Navy	Combat shotguns used for breaching doors, close-quarters combat in urban environments, and shipboard security. The M590A1 is the primary variant for military use with heavy-walled barrel.
M1014 (Benelli M4)	Semi-Auto Shotgun	12 Gauge	USMC, SOF	Semi-automatic combat shotgun adopted by the Marine Corps as the Joint Service Combat Shotgun. Used for breaching and close-quarters battle operations.

Table 4. Active U.S. Military Shotguns and Sidearms (2026)

3. Vehicle-Mounted Weapons and Artillery Systems

The U.S. military maintains an extensive array of vehicle-mounted weapons and artillery systems that provide the heavy firepower necessary for combined arms operations. These systems range from main battle tanks and infantry fighting vehicles to self-propelled howitzers and multiple rocket launchers, forming the core of the armored and mechanized combat capability. Artillery remains the most lethal area-saturation weapon on the battlefield, with modern precision-guided munitions enabling first-round effects that previously required massed fire missions. The Army is currently modernizing its armored fleet with the M1E3 Abrams next-generation tank program and the M109A8 Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) howitzer upgrade.

3.1 Main Battle Tanks and Armored Vehicles

Designation	Type	Armament	Approx. Quantity	Role and Use
M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams	Main Battle Tank	120mm smoothbore, M2 .50 cal, 7.62mm coax	~2,500	The primary MBT of the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. Features depleted uranium armor, advanced fire control, and thermal imaging. The SEPv3 upgrade adds improved armor, power generation, and network connectivity.
M1E3 Abrams	Next-Gen MBT	120mm+ (upgraded)	Development	Next-generation tank program designed to be lighter, more survivable, and more lethal. Expected to incorporate hybrid-electric propulsion, active protection systems, and AI-enabled targeting.
M2A4 Bradley IFV	Infantry Fighting Vehicle	25mm Bushmaster chain gun, TOW missiles, 7.62mm coax	~2,500	Tracked IFV carrying infantry squads into combat while providing direct fire support with its 25mm cannon and TOW anti-tank missiles. The A4 variant features improved armor, electronics, and power systems.
M3A4 Bradley CFV	Cavalry Fighting Vehicle	25mm Bushmaster, TOW missiles, 7.62mm coax	~1,000	Reconnaissance variant of the Bradley used by armored cavalry units for scouting, screening, and security operations. Carries additional ammunition and scout equipment in place of infantry.
Stryker (Multiple Variants)	8x8 Wheeled APC/IFV	M2 .50 cal / 30mm / 105mm (varies)	~4,400	Family of wheeled armored vehicles providing rapid, road-mobile combat capability. Variants include the Infantry Carrier Vehicle (ICVVA1), Mobile Gun System (MGS) with 105mm gun, Reconnaissance Vehicle, Anti-Tank Guided Missile Vehicle, and Medical Evacuation Vehicle.
AMPV (Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle)	Tracked Support Vehicle	M2 .50 cal / MK 19	Initial fielding	Replacement for the aging M113 family of tracked vehicles. Five mission variants include General Purpose, Medical Evacuation, Mortar Carrier, Mission Command, and Recovery. Provides better protection and mobility than M113.
M113A3	Tracked APC	M2 .50 cal / MK 19	~5,000 (declining)	Legacy tracked armored personnel carrier still in use for support roles. Being progressively replaced by the AMPV. Used for transport, medical evacuation, and command post operations.

Designation	Type	Armament	Approx. Quantity	Role and Use
JLTV (Joint Light Tactical Vehicle)	Light Tactical Vehicle	M2 .50 cal / Mk 19 / TOW	~15,000+	Modern light tactical vehicle replacing the Humvee for many roles. Provides enhanced blast protection, off-road mobility, and payload capacity. Used for troop transport, reconnaissance, and weapon platform duties.
HMMWV (Humvee)	Light Tactical Vehicle	M2 .50 cal / Mk 19 / TOW	~50,000+	The iconic light tactical vehicle still in widespread service across all branches. Used for transport, patrol, ambulance, and weapons platform roles. Being supplemented by JLTV but will remain in inventory for years.
MRAP (Multiple Variants)	Mine-Resistant Vehicle	M2 .50 cal / Mk 19 / 40mm grenade launcher	~10,000	Family of mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles developed for counter-insurgency operations. Variants include the MaxxPro, Cougar, Caiman, and M-ATV. Provides V-hull protection against IEDs.

Table 5. Active U.S. Military Armored Vehicles (2026)

3.2 Artillery Systems

Designation	Type	Range	Quantity	Role and Use
M109A7 Paladin PIM	155mm SP Howitzer	30 km (Excalibur: 47 km)	~875	Primary self-propelled howitzer providing indirect fire support. The PIM variant features a new chassis based on the Bradley, increased ammunition capacity, improved survivability, and digital fire control. Fires standard and precision-guided munitions including the M982 Excalibur GPS-guided shell.
M777A2 155mm Towed Howitzer	155mm Towed	30 km (Excalibur: 40 km)	~1,000	Lightweight towed 155mm howitzer used by Army and Marine Corps. Titanium construction makes it significantly lighter than the M198 it replaced. Air-transportable by CH-47 and MV-22. Widely used for artillery raids and expeditionary operations.
M119A3 105mm Towed Howitzer	105mm Towed	19 km	~550	Lightweight towed howitzer used by airborne and light infantry units. Highly mobile and air-transportable, it provides direct and indirect fire support for units that cannot deploy heavier artillery.
M270A2 MLRS	227mm Rocket / 610mm GMLRS	GMLRS: 70+ km	~425	Multiple Launch Rocket System providing massive area fire and precision strike capability. Fires GMLRS (GPS-guided rockets), ATACMS (short-range ballistic missiles to 300 km), and newer long-range variants. The A2 upgrade adds improved fire control and launcher capability.

Designation	Type	Range	Quantity	Role and Use
HIMARS (M142)	227mm Rocket / 610mm GMLRS	GMLRS: 70+ km	~500+	Highly mobile, wheeled variant of the MLRS mounted on a 6x6 truck chassis. Carries a single six-round pod. Proven extremely effective in Ukraine and other conflicts. Rapidly deployable by C-130 transport aircraft.
M119A3 / M777A2 w/ High-Capacity Magazine	155mm SP/Upgrade	Extended ranges	In development	Upgraded artillery systems integrating the Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) program and automated loading systems for increased rate of fire and range.

Table 6. Active U.S. Artillery Systems (2026)

3.3 Air Defense Artillery

Air defense artillery systems provide critical protection against enemy aircraft, helicopters, drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles. The U.S. military has significantly expanded its air defense capabilities in response to the proliferation of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and precision-guided munitions on modern battlefields. The Patriot system remains the cornerstone of area air and missile defense, while shorter-range systems such as the NASAMS, Avenger, and Marine Air Defense Integrated System (MADIS) provide layered point defense for forward-deployed forces.

Designation	Type	Engagement Range	Primary Users	Role and Use
MIM-104F Patriot PAC-3 MSE	SAM / ABM	Up to 160 km (aircraft), 40+ km (ballistic)	Army	The premier air and missile defense system providing area coverage against tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, advanced aircraft, and drones. PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement variant features hit-to-kill technology.
NASAMS (National Advanced SAM)	Medium-Range SAM	25+ km	Army (Forward)	Norwegian-designed medium-range air defense system adopted by the U.S. Army for intermediate-layer defense. Uses AMRAAM missiles in a ground-launched configuration. Being deployed to protect critical infrastructure and forward operating bases.
FIM-92 Stinger	MANPADS	8 km	Army, USMC, Navy	Man-portable air defense system providing short-range defense against low-altitude aircraft and helicopters. Lightweight, shoulder-fired, heat-seeking missile. Widely distributed at the platoon level.
AN/TWQ-1 Avenger	Short-Range SAM	8 km	Army, USMC	Short-range air defense system mounted on a Humvee chassis with eight Stinger missiles and a .50 cal machine gun. Provides mobile, all-weather air defense for ground forces.

Designation	Type	Engagement Range	Primary Users	Role and Use
MADIS (Marine Air Defense Integrated System)	Short-Range/CUAS	5+ km	USMC	Mounted on JLTV chassis with Stinger missiles, a 30mm cannon, and electronic warfare/jamming systems specifically designed to counter unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS). Key component of Marine Corps Force Design 2030.
THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense)	High-Altitude ABM	200 km	Army	Anti-ballistic missile system designed to intercept and destroy short, medium, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles during their terminal phase. Hit-to-kill technology. Deployed in multiple theaters worldwide.
Ground-Based Interceptor (GBI)	Exo-atmospheric ABM	Strategic range	Missile Defense Agency	Component of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system for defense of the U.S. homeland against limited ICBM attacks. Deployed at Fort Greely, Alaska and Vandenberg SFB, California. Next Generation Interceptor (NGI) is under development.

Table 7. Active U.S. Air Defense Artillery Systems (2026)

4. Missile Systems

The United States military fields the most diverse and capable missile arsenal in the world, encompassing air-to-air, air-to-surface, surface-to-surface, surface-to-air, anti-ship, anti-tank, and anti-radiation missiles across tactical, operational, and strategic ranges. These precision-guided munitions form the primary strike and defense assets for every branch of the armed forces. Recent conflicts have demonstrated the decisive impact of precision missiles, with the Tomahawk land-attack cruise missile, the Javelin anti-tank guided missile, and the AMRAAM air-to-air missile achieving particular prominence. The U.S. is also actively developing hypersonic weapons systems that travel at speeds exceeding Mach 5, designed to penetrate advanced air defenses where traditional subsonic cruise missiles face increasing risk.

4.1 Air-to-Air Missiles

Designation	Type	Range	Platforms	Role and Use
AIM-120D AMRAAM	Active Radar BVRAAM	160+ km	F-15, F-16, F-22, F-35	The primary beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile for the U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marines. Active radar homing with inertial/GPS midcourse guidance. The D variant adds GPS-aided navigation and improved kinematic performance.

Designation	Type	Range	Platforms	Role and Use
AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder	IR Short-Range AAM	35+ km	F-15, F-16, F-18, F-22, F-35	The latest generation of the Sidewinder family. Features imaging infrared seeker with high off-boresight engagement capability, thrust-vectoring control, and lock-on-after-launch (LOAL) capability for fifth-generation fighters.
AIM-260 JATM (Development)	Long-Range BVRAAM	200+ km (est.)	F-22, F-35, NGAD	Next-generation air-to-air missile under development to counter advanced foreign weapons like the Chinese PL-15. Designed for significantly extended range while maintaining compatibility with current fighter bays.
AGM-122 Sidearm	Anti-Radiation AAM	20+ km	Helicopters, legacy platforms	Anti-radiation missile based on the AIM-9 Sidewinder airframe. Homes on enemy radar emissions. Used by attack helicopters and special operations aircraft.

Table 8. Active U.S. Air-to-Air Missile Systems (2026)

4.2 Air-to-Surface and Cruise Missiles

Designation	Type	Range	Primary Users	Role and Use
AGM-114R Hellfire II	Precision Air-to-Ground	11+ km	Army (AH-64), SOF, Navy	The primary precision air-to-ground missile for rotary-wing and unmanned platforms. Multi-target capability with blast-frag, shaped-charge, and thermobaric warheads. Used extensively against vehicles, personnel, and structures.
BGM-109 Tomahawk Block V	Land-Attack Cruise Missile	1,600+ km	Navy (ships/subs)	The premier long-range precision strike weapon for naval forces. Block V variant adds the Maritime Strike Tomahawk (MST) for anti-ship capability and improved guidance with seeker technology. Submarine and surface-launched.
AGM-158B JASSM-ER	Stealthy Cruise Missile	1,000+ km	Air Force (B-1B, B-2, B-52, F-15E, F-16)	Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile - Extended Range. Low-observable, precision-guided cruise missile with penetrating capability against integrated air defense systems. The ER variant doubles the range of the baseline JASSM.
AGM-158C LRASM	Anti-Ship Cruise Missile	550+ km	Navy, Air Force	Long Range Anti-Ship Missile designed to defeat advanced naval defenses. Features autonomous targeting, low-observable design, and multi-mode seeker. Air-launched from B-1B, F/A-18, and P-8A; surface-launched variant under development.
AGM-179 JAGM	Multi-Purpose A-G Missile	8+ km	Army (AH-64), USMC (AH-1Z)	Joint Air-to-Ground Missile replacing Hellfire and TOW on rotary-wing platforms. Multi-mode seeker (millimeter wave radar + semi-active laser + imaging infrared) enables all-weather precision engagement.

Designation	Type	Range	Primary Users	Role and Use
AGM-65G/H Maverick	Air-to-Ground Missile	25+ km	Air Force (F-16, A-10 legacy)	Precision air-to-ground missile with electro-optical and laser guidance. Used against armor, air defenses, and point targets. Being replaced by JAGM and JASSM on most platforms.
AGM-84H/K SLAM-ER	Standoff Air-to-Ground	270+ km	Navy (F/A-18)	Standoff Land Attack Missile - Expanded Response. GPS/IR-guided cruise missile for precision strike against ships and land targets. Network-enabled with man-in-the-loop terminal guidance.
AGM-88G AARGM-ER	Anti-Radiation Missile	200+ km	Navy, Air Force	Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile - Extended Range. Supersonic missile that homes on enemy radar emissions to destroy air defense systems. Multi-mode seeker with GPS/INS and millimeter wave for targeting radar-emitting or non-emitting assets.

Table 9. Active U.S. Air-to-Surface and Cruise Missile Systems (2026)

4.3 Anti-Tank Guided Missiles

Designation	Type	Range	Users	Role and Use
FGM-148 Javelin	Man-Portable Fire-and-Forget ATGM	4.75+ km	Army, USMC, SOF	The primary man-portable anti-tank missile system. Fire-and-forget infrared guidance with top-attack profile to defeat reactive armor. Effective against all known armored vehicles. Widely exported and combat-proven in Ukraine.
BGM-71 TOW (TOW-2B Aero)	Heavy ATGM	4.5+ km	Army, USMC, SOF	Tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided missile system. The TOW-2B Aero variant adds a top-attack flyover, shoot-down (FLY-SHOOT) capability. Vehicle-mounted on Strykers, Bradleys, Humvees, and helicopters.
SMAW-D (Mk 153 Mod 2)	Shoulder-Launched Multipurpose	500+ m	USMC	Shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon for destroying bunkers, fortifications, and light armor. The Mod 2 variant features improved optics and a fire-from-enclosure capability.
M3 MAAWS (Carl Gustaf)	Multi-Role Recoilless Rifle	1,000+ m	Army (Ranger, SOF), USMC	Swedish-designed multi-role weapon system capable of firing multiple ammunition types: HEAT anti-armor, HEDP dual-purpose, illumination, smoke, and bunker-busting rounds. Man-portable.
AT4 CS	Disposable Light Anti-Armor	300+ m	Army, USMC, SOF	Disposable, pre-loaded, single-shot recoilless rifle for light anti-armor and anti-structure engagements. The Confined Space (CS) variant can be fired from enclosed spaces.

Table 10. Active U.S. Anti-Tank and Anti-Structure Weapons (2026)

4.4 Surface-to-Surface and Hypersonic Weapons

Designation	Type	Range	Users	Role and Use
MGM-140 ATACMS (M57A1)	Short-Range Ballistic Missile	300+ km	Army (HIMARS/MLRS)	Army Tactical Missile System providing long-range precision strike. GPS-guided unitary or cluster warhead variants. Fired from MLRS and HIMARS launchers. Proven in combat operations from Desert Storm to present-day conflicts.
Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW) "Dark Eagle"	Hypersonic Glide Body	2,775+ km (est.)	Army (fielding 2026)	Land-based hypersonic weapons system using the Common Hypersonic Glide Body (C-HGB). Travels at speeds exceeding Mach 5 with unpredictable trajectory, making interception nearly impossible with current defense systems.
Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS)	Hypersonic Missile	2,775+ km (est.)	Navy (Zumwalt destroyers, Virginia subs)	Naval variant of the hypersonic weapons system designed for ship and submarine deployment. Shares the C-HGB with the Army LRHW. Initial deployment planned aboard Zumwalt-class destroyers with subsequent submarine integration.
SM-6 (RIM-174)	Multi-Role Surface Missile	370+ km (air), 240+ km (surface)	Navy	Standard Missile 6 is the Navy's premier multi-mission missile providing anti-air warfare, anti-surface warfare, and sea-based terminal ballistic missile defense. Can engage air, surface, and land targets from Aegis-equipped ships.

Table 11. Active U.S. Surface-to-Surface and Hypersonic Weapons (2026)

5. Naval Weapons and Platforms

The United States Navy operates the most powerful naval force in the world, with approximately 350 deployable battle force ships including 11 nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, 50 nuclear-powered attack submarines, 14 ballistic missile submarines, and a vast fleet of cruisers, destroyers, amphibious warfare ships, and support vessels. The Navy's weapons portfolio includes the Aegis Combat System integrating multiple missile types, shipboard guns, torpedoes, and advanced electronic warfare systems. The Navy is currently modernizing its surface fleet with the Arleigh Burke Flight III destroyer (with the most powerful air defense radar ever put to sea, the AN/SPY-6), the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine, and the Ford-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

5.1 Aircraft Carriers

Class / Ship	Type	Aircraft Capacity	No. in Service	Role and Use
Nimitz-Class (CVN-68 to CVN-77)	Nuclear-Powered CVN	60-90 aircraft	10	The backbone of the Navy's strike capability for over five decades. Nuclear-powered with four catapults. Each carrier air wing includes F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, EA-18G Growlers, E-2D Hawkeyes, C-2A Greyhounds, MH-60 Seahawks, and now F-35C Lightning IIs. Projects power worldwide.
Gerald R. Ford-Class (CVN-78+)	Nuclear-Powered CVN	75+ aircraft	2 (CVN-78, CVN-79)	Next-generation nuclear carrier with electromagnetic catapults (EMALS), advanced arresting gear, increased sortie rate, and 25% greater electrical power. USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) and USS John F. Kennedy (CVN-79) are operational. CVN-80 Enterprise under construction.

Table 12. Active U.S. Aircraft Carriers (2026)

5.2 Surface Combatants

Class	Type	Displacement	Qty	Key Weapons / Role
Arleigh Burke (Flt I/II/A)	Guided Missile Destroyer	~9,200 tons	~70	The workhorse of the surface fleet. Aegis Combat System with SPY-1D radar. Armed with 96 VLS cells firing SM-2/3/6, Tomahawk, and VL-ASROC. Provides air defense, anti-submarine, anti-surface, and land attack capabilities.
Arleigh Burke (Flt III)	Guided Missile Destroyer	~9,800 tons	5+ (building)	Latest Burke variant with the revolutionary AN/SPY-6(V)1 Air and Missile Defense Radar (AMDR), providing dramatically improved detection range and discrimination against advanced threats. 96+ VLS cells.
Ticonderoga-Class	Guided Missile Cruiser	~9,600 tons	9 (declining)	Large surface combatants with 122 VLS cells, providing the most missile capacity of any U.S. surface ship. Serve as air defense commanders for carrier strike groups. Being progressively retired as Burke Flight III comes online.
Littoral Combat Ship (LCS)	Coastal Combatant	~3,000 tons	~30	Fast, agile surface combatants designed for littoral operations. Freedom-class (monohull) and Independence-class (trimaran) variants. Mission modules include anti-surface, anti-submarine, and mine countermeasures.
Zumwalt-Class (DDG-1000)	Stealth Destroyer	~15,900 tons	3	The largest and most technologically advanced destroyer ever built. Tumblehome hull for reduced radar cross-section. Currently being fitted with hypersonic weapons (CPS). Features two 155mm Advanced Gun Systems (AGS), though the unique ammunition program was canceled.

Class	Type	Displacement	Qty	Key Weapons / Role
Constellation-Class (FFG-62)	Guided Missile Frigate	~7,400 tons	First under construction	Next-generation multi-mission frigate based on the Italian FREMM design. Designed to provide escort, anti-submarine, and air defense capability at lower cost than destroyers. Will carry 32 VLS cells and an integrated AN/SPY-6 radar.

Table 13. Active U.S. Surface Combatants (2026)

5.3 Submarines

Class	Type	Weapons	Qty	Role and Use
Ohio-Class SSBN	Ballistic Missile Sub	24 Trident II D5LE missiles	14	The sea-based leg of the U.S. nuclear triad. Each submarine carries 24 Trident II D5LE submarine-launched ballistic missiles, each with multiple independently targetable warheads (MIRVs). Conduct continuous strategic deterrent patrols from bases in Washington and Georgia.
Columbia-Class SSBN	Ballistic Missile Sub	16 Trident II D5LE missiles	First launched 2027	Replacement for the Ohio-class SSBNs entering service in the late 2020s. Features a life-of-ship reactor core (no mid-life refueling), electric drive, and acoustic quieting improvements. Will maintain continuous sea-based deterrence through the 2080s.
Virginia-Class SSN	Nuclear Attack Submarine	12 VLS (Tomahawk) + Mk 48 torpedoes	49+ (building)	The primary attack submarine fleet providing anti-submarine, anti-surface, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and land attack with Tomahawk cruise missiles. Block IV and V variants add Virginia Payload Modules with additional VLS tubes and improved acoustic sensors.
Seawolf-Class SSN	Nuclear Attack Submarine	50+ Tomahawk + Mk 48 torpedoes	3	The most capable attack submarines in the world, designed for Cold War missions against Soviet submarines. USS Connecticut, USS Jimmy Carter (Missions: special operations and intelligence). Extremely quiet and deep-diving. No longer in production.
Ohio-Class SSGN	Guided Missile Submarine	154 Tomahawk missiles	4 (reduced)	Former ballistic missile submarines converted to guided missile submarines. Carry up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles and can accommodate special operations forces with dry deck shelters and advanced diver delivery systems.

Table 14. Active U.S. Submarines (2026)

5.4 Naval Guns, Torpedoes, and Shipboard Weapons

Designation	Type	Users	Role and Use
Mk 45 Mod 4 5-inch/62 Gun	Naval Gun	Destroyers, Cruisers, LCS	Primary naval gunfire support weapon on surface combatants. Fires standard and extended-range guided munitions (ERGM) for naval surface fire support against shore targets, and for anti-surface engagements.
Mk 38 Mod 3 25mm Bushmaster	Autocannon	All surface ships	Stabilized naval gun system for defense against small boats, aircraft, and close-in threats. Remote-operated with electro-optical/infrared sensor suite. Present on virtually every class of U.S. surface ship.
Mk 15 Phalanx CIWS	Close-In Weapon System	All surface ships	Last-ditch defense against incoming anti-ship missiles, aircraft, and drones. Six-barreled 20mm Gatling gun with autonomous radar-directed fire control. The Block 1B variant adds surface engagement capability.
Mk 53 Nulka Decoy System	Active Decoy	All surface ships	Active decoy system that launches hovering rocket decoys to seduce incoming anti-ship missiles away from the ship. Critical component of shipboard electronic warfare self-protection.
Mk 54 Lightweight Torpedo	Lightweight ASW Torpedo	Surface ships, P-8A, MH-60R	Primary anti-submarine warfare weapon for surface ships, maritime patrol aircraft, and ASW helicopters. Combines the warhead of the Mk 50 with the propulsion of the Mk 46 for improved shallow-water performance.
Mk 48 ADCAP Mod 7	Heavyweight Torpedo	Submarines	Advanced capability heavyweight torpedo for use against submarines and surface ships. Wire-guided with active/passive homing. The Mod 7 variant features improved guidance, increased speed, and a Common Broadband Advanced Sonar System (CBASS).
SeaRAM	Point-Defense Missile	LCS, Carriers	11-missile launcher replacing or supplementing Phalanx CIWS with the Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM). Provides an inner-layer defense envelope against anti-ship cruise missiles and aircraft with active radar/infrared dual-mode guidance.

Table 15. Active U.S. Naval Guns, Torpedoes, and Shipboard Weapons (2026)

6. Air Force Aircraft and Aerial Weapons

The United States Air Force maintains the largest and most technologically advanced air fleet in the world, with approximately 5,000 active manned aircraft and an expanding fleet of unmanned aerial vehicles. As of early 2026, the USAF operates over 2,700 combat aircraft, including fifth-generation stealth fighters (F-22A Raptor and F-35A Lightning II), fourth-generation multirole fighters (F-16C/D Fighting Falcon and F-15E Strike Eagle), strategic bombers (B-52H, B-1B, B-2A), and a vast fleet of transport, tanker, surveillance, and special mission aircraft. The Air Force is simultaneously developing the B-21 Raider next-generation stealth bomber and the F-47 Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) fighter to maintain air superiority against peer adversaries through the 2040s and beyond.

6.1 Fighters and Attack Aircraft

Designation	Type	Qty (approx.)	Role and Use
F-35A Lightning II	5th-Gen Multirole Fighter	~471	The most advanced fighter in the U.S. inventory, with stealth technology, sensor fusion, and network-centric warfare capability. Primary roles: air superiority, deep strike, close air support, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR). Powered by the F135 engine with 43,000 lbs thrust.
F-22A Raptor	5th-Gen Air Superiority Fighter	~165	The world's first fifth-generation fighter, optimized for air dominance. Unmatched combination of stealth, supercruise (supersonic without afterburner), thrust vectoring, and advanced avionics. Air-to-air focused but capable of air-to-ground with JDAMs and SDBs. No longer in production.
F-15EX Eagle II	4th-Gen+ Air Superiority Fighter	~50 (growing)	Advanced variant of the legendary F-15 with fly-by-wire controls, EPAWSS electronic warfare suite, glass cockpit, and the most powerful fighter engine (F110-GE-129). Can carry up to 29,500 lbs of ordnance including AMRAAMs and large air-to-ground weapons.
F-16C/D Fighting Falcon	4th-Gen Multirole Fighter	~500	The most numerous combat aircraft in the USAF inventory. Proven multirole capability for air-to-air, air-to-ground, and SEAD missions. Continuously upgraded with advanced radars (APG-83 SABR), electronic warfare, and targeting pods.
F-15E Strike Eagle	4th-Gen Strike Fighter	~218	Dual-role fighter designed for deep strike and air superiority simultaneously. Heavily armed with air-to-air missiles, precision-guided bombs, and cruise missiles. The primary USAF platform for long-range strike with JASSM and JDAM employment.
A-10C Thunderbolt II	Close Air Support	~260	Dedicated close air support aircraft designed around a 30mm GAU-8 Avenger cannon. Provides loitering CAS with the ability to engage ground targets with precision. Titanium "bathtub" protects the pilot. Despite repeated retirement attempts, it remains valued for its unique capabilities.
AC-130J Ghostrider	Gunship	~37	Heavily armed fixed-wing gunship providing precision close air support and armed overwatch. Equipped with a 30mm cannon, 105mm howitzer, and precision-guided munitions (Hellfire, GBU-39 SDB, Viper Strike). Operates at night using advanced sensors.

Table 16. Active USAF Fighters and Attack Aircraft (2026)

6.2 Bombers

Designation	Type	Qty	Role and Use
B-2A Spirit	Stealth Strategic Bomber	~19	Flying wing stealth bomber capable of penetrating the most sophisticated air defenses. Dual-capable (nuclear and conventional). Primary conventional strike platform with 16 JDAMs or 8 2,000-lb JDAMs, 80 Mk 82s, or 16 AGM-129 or JASSM missiles. Conducts strategic deterrence and global strike.

Designation	Type	Qty	Role and Use
B-52H Stratofortress	Long-Range Strategic Bomber	~58	The longest-serving bomber in U.S. history (since 1955). Can carry up to 70,000 lbs of ordnance including nuclear ALCMs, conventional cruise missiles (AGM-86B, JASSM-ER), and precision-guided bombs. B-52J modernization program adds new engines, radar, and communications through the 2050s.
B-1B Lancer	Supersonic Strategic Bomber	~41	Variable-sweep wing supersonic bomber optimized for conventional long-range strike. Largest payload of any U.S. bomber at 75,000 lbs. Carries 24 JASSM or 84 Mk 82 JDAMs. Previously nuclear-capable, now conventional-only under treaty obligations. Primarily focused on close air support and maritime strike.
B-21 Raider	Next-Gen Stealth Bomber	Development	Northrop Grumman's next-generation long-range strike bomber designed to replace both the B-1B and B-2A. Features advanced stealth, open-systems architecture, nuclear and conventional capability, and the potential for unmanned operations. First flight completed in 2024; production deliveries expected late 2020s.

Table 17. Active USAF Bombers (2026)

6.3 Mobility, Tanker, and Special Mission Aircraft

Designation	Type	Qty (approx.)	Role and Use
C-17A Globemaster III	Strategic Airlifter	~222	Primary strategic and tactical airlifter capable of carrying outsized cargo to austere locations. Can airlift tanks, helicopters, and personnel. Critical for global force projection, humanitarian aid, and medical evacuation missions.
C-130J Super Hercules	Tactical Airlifter	~450	Four-engine turboprop tactical transport for intra-theater operations. Can operate from short, unpaved runways. Variants include HC-130J (Combat Search and Rescue), MC-130J (Special Operations), KC-130J (USMC tanker), and WC-130J (Weather Reconnaissance).
C-5M Super Galaxy	Strategic Airlifter	~52	The largest aircraft in the USAF inventory, capable of carrying oversized cargo including M1 Abrams tanks, Chinook helicopters, and other outsize equipment. Critical for inter-theater strategic airlift. Upgraded with new engines and avionics.
KC-46A Pegasus	Aerial Refueler/Transport	~90+	Next-generation tanker based on the Boeing 767 platform. Provides aerial refueling using a boom and hose-and-drogue system. Also capable of cargo transport, aero-medical evacuation, and limited command and control. Replacing aging KC-135 fleet.
KC-135R/T Stratotanker	Aerial Refueler	~400	The primary aerial refueling aircraft for over 60 years. Based on the Boeing 707 airframe. Supports all U.S. military aircraft and allied aircraft. Being gradually replaced by KC-46A.
E-3G Sentry (AWACS)	Airborne Early Warning	~31	Airborne Warning and Control System providing all-weather surveillance, command, control, and communications. The rotating radar dome provides 360-degree coverage out to 400+ km. Being replaced by the E-7 Wedgetail.

Designation	Type	Qty (approx.)	Role and Use
E-4B Nightwatch	National Airborne Operations Center	4	The "Doomsday Plane" - modified Boeing 747 designed to serve as survivable airborne command post for the President and senior military leadership during national emergencies. Nuclear-hardened with extensive communications suite.
RC-135 Rivet Joint	Signals Intelligence	~17	The U.S. military's primary airborne signals intelligence (SIGINT) and electronic intelligence (ELINT) platform. Collects communications, radar, and electronic emissions from adversarial forces. Operated from forward-deployed locations worldwide.
U-2S Dragon Lady	High-Altitude Reconnaissance	~30	Single-engine, high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft capable of collecting imagery, signals intelligence, and other data at altitudes above 70,000 feet. Operates in both peace and conflict zones. Being supplemented by high-altitude drones.

Table 18. Active USAF Mobility, Tanker, and Special Mission Aircraft (2026)

7. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) have become an indispensable component of the U.S. military's combat and intelligence-gathering capabilities. From high-altitude strategic surveillance to tactical armed reconnaissance, drones provide persistent presence and precision strike capability without risking human aircrew. The MQ-9 Reaper has become the most recognized armed drone in the world, conducting thousands of strike missions against terrorist targets. Meanwhile, the RQ-4 Global Hawk and MQ-4C Triton provide unmatched high-altitude, long-endurance intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance coverage. The U.S. military is now developing next-generation collaborative combat aircraft (CCA) that will operate alongside manned fighters in an AI-enabled "loyal wingman" role, representing a paradigm shift in aerial warfare.

Designation	Type	Endurance	Users	Role and Use
MQ-9A Reaper	Armed MALE UAV	14+ hours	Air Force, SOCOM, Navy (limited)	The primary armed drone for persistent strike and ISR. Carries up to 4 Hellfire missiles, 2 GBU-12 Paveway II laser-guided bombs, or GBU-38 JDAMs. Provides real-time video and signals intelligence. Has conducted over 7,000 strikes.
MQ-9B SkyGuardian / SeaGuardian	Enhanced MALE UAV	40+ hours	Air Force, Allies	Next-generation Reaper with de-icing, collision avoidance, and maritime radar for multi-domain operations. SeaGuardian variant optimized for maritime surveillance with inverse synthetic aperture radar.

Designation	Type	Endurance	Users	Role and Use
RQ-4 Global Hawk	HALE ISR UAV	30+ hours	Air Force	High-altitude, long-endurance unmanned reconnaissance aircraft operating above 60,000 feet. Provides wide-area ISR with electro-optical, infrared, and synthetic aperture radar sensors. Operated by the 4th Reconnaissance Squadron for Pacific coverage. Planned retirement by 2027.
MQ-4C Triton	Maritime HALE UAV	24+ hours	Navy	Maritime surveillance variant of the Global Hawk optimized for open-ocean and littoral reconnaissance. Provides persistent maritime ISR, anti-surface warfare, and anti-submarine warfare support to carrier and expeditionary strike groups.
MQ-1C Gray Eagle	Armed MALE UAV	25+ hours	Army	Army's primary armed drone for division-level ISR and strike. Carries Hellfire missiles and guided bombs. Provides extended surveillance and precision engagement capability for ground commanders.
RQ-170 Sentinel	Stealth ISR UAV	Unknown	USAF, SOCOM	Low-observable unmanned reconnaissance aircraft designed for operations in denied airspace. Used for intelligence collection in heavily defended areas. The aircraft that conducted the 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan.
RQ-11 Raven	Mini Reconnaissance UAV	90 minutes	Army, USMC, SOF	Hand-launched mini-UAV for squad-level reconnaissance. Provides real-time video to ground units. Lightweight and man-portable, it is the most numerous UAV in the U.S. military inventory with over 7,000 produced.
SUAS (Various)	Small Tactical UAVs	1-4 hours	Army, USMC, SOF	Category including RQ-20 Puma, RQ-28, and commercial-modified drones for platoon and company-level reconnaissance. Rapidly evolving with advancements in autonomy, AI, and counter-UAS integration.
CCA (Collaborative Combat Aircraft)	AI "Loyal Wingman"	Development	Air Force (development)	Next-generation autonomous combat drones designed to operate alongside manned fighters (F-35A, NGAD). Will conduct ISR, electronic warfare, strike, and escort missions. Programs include the General Atomics XQ-67 and Anduril Fury. Expected to enter service by 2030.

Table 19. Active U.S. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (2026)

8. Nuclear Weapons and the Strategic Triad

The United States maintains a nuclear arsenal of approximately 5,177 total warheads, of which roughly 1,770 are deployed on operational delivery systems. The U.S. nuclear triad consists of three complementary legs: land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and strategic bombers with nuclear-capable cruise missiles and gravity bombs. This triad structure provides redundancy, survivability, and flexibility essential for strategic deterrence. The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is responsible for warhead design, production, and maintenance, while

the Department of Defense manages the delivery platforms. Currently, the U.S. is undergoing the most significant nuclear modernization effort since the Cold War, with all three legs being simultaneously replaced or upgraded. As of March 2026, the New START Treaty with Russia has expired, removing formal limits on deployed strategic warheads, though both sides have indicated intent to maintain approximate parity.

8.1 Land-Based Leg: Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles

The LGM-30G Minuteman III ICBM has served as the backbone of America's land-based nuclear deterrent since 1970. Approximately 400 Minuteman III missiles are deployed across 450 operational launch facilities spread across three states: Montana (Malmstrom AFB), Wyoming (F.E. Warren AFB), and North Dakota (Minot AFB). Each missile carries a single W87-0 warhead with a yield of 300 kilotons. The Sentinel (formerly Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent or GBSD) program is developing the replacement for the Minuteman III, with initial operational capability expected in the early 2030s. Sentinel will use existing launch facilities with upgraded command and control systems and a new W87-1 warhead variant.

8.2 Sea-Based Leg: Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles

The UGM-133A Trident II D5LE submarine-launched ballistic missile is the most reliable and accurate strategic missile in the U.S. arsenal, with over 180 successful test flights. Fourteen Ohio-class SSBNs carry 24 Trident II missiles each, though treaty limitations cap the number of deployed warheads. Each Trident II D5LE can carry up to 14 W76-1 (100 kt) or W88 (475 kt) warheads, though loading is typically lower under arms control agreements. SSBNs conduct continuous deterrent patrols from two bases: Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Washington and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia. At any given time, approximately 8-10 SSBNs are at sea, providing the most survivable leg of the nuclear triad due to the difficulty of tracking nuclear submarines in the open ocean.

8.3 Air-Based Leg: Strategic Bombers and Nuclear-Capable Aircraft

Designation	Warhead/Weapon	Yield	Platform	Role and Use
B61-12 Gravity Bomb	B61-12 Nuclear Bomb	Variable (0.3-50 kt)	B-2A, F-15E, F-35A (certified)	The latest variant of the B61 family with a tail kit providing precision guidance (INS/GPS) and variable yield. Air-launched free-fall nuclear bomb. The F-35A is the newest platform certified for B61-12 delivery, extending nuclear strike capability to stealth fighters.
AGM-86B Air-Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM)	W80-1 Nuclear Warhead	Variable (5-150 kt)	B-52H	Air-launched, subsonic, nuclear-armed cruise missile carried by B-52H bombers. Provides stand-off nuclear strike capability with terrain-following guidance. Being replaced by the LRSO.

Designation	Warhead/Weapon	Yield	Platform	Role and Use
AGM-181 Long Range Stand-Off (LRSO)	W80-4 Warhead	Variable (5-150 kt)	B-52J (future)	Next-generation nuclear-armed air-launched cruise missile replacing the AGM-86B ALCM. Features improved stealth, range, and survivability against advanced air defenses. Under development by Raytheon.
B83-1 Gravity Bomb	B83 Nuclear Bomb	Variable (low yield to 1.2 Mt)	B-2A	The highest-yield nuclear weapon in the U.S. active inventory, designed for hard and deeply buried target (HDBT) defeat. Carried exclusively by the B-2A Spirit bomber. Planned for retirement as earth-penetrating capability migrates to other delivery systems.

Table 20. Active U.S. Nuclear Air-Launched Weapons (2026)

8.4 Nuclear Warhead Summary

Warhead	Type	Yield	Delivery Platform	Status
W87-0	Thermonuclear ICBM	300 kt	LGM-30G Minuteman III	Deployed
W87-1	Thermonuclear ICBM	~475 kt (est.)	LGM-35A Sentinel (future)	Development
W76-1	Thermonuclear SLBM	100 kt	UGM-133A Trident II D5LE	Deployed
W76-2 (Low-Yield)	Thermonuclear SLBM	~5-7 kt	UGM-133A Trident II D5LE	Deployed
W88	Thermonuclear SLBM	475 kt	UGM-133A Trident II D5LE	Deployed
W80-1	Thermonuclear ALCM	5-150 kt (variable)	AGM-86B	Deployed
W80-4	Thermonuclear LRSO	5-150 kt (variable)	AGM-181 LRSO	Development
B61-12	Gravity Bomb (Variable Yield)	0.3-50 kt	B-2A, F-15E, F-35A	Deployed
B83-1	Gravity Bomb (High Yield)	Up to 1.2 Mt	B-2A	Deployed (retirement pending)

Table 21. U.S. Nuclear Warheads (2026)

9. Marine Corps Weapons Systems

The United States Marine Corps is a unique expeditionary force combining ground, aviation, and logistics capabilities optimized for amphibious operations, rapid crisis response, and sustained littoral combat. Under Force Design 2030/2035, the Marine Corps is undergoing a fundamental restructuring to focus on maritime and littoral operations in contested environments, particularly in the Indo-Pacific theater. This transformation has led to the divestiture of legacy heavy armor (all tank companies), reduction in tube artillery batteries, and the fielding of new anti-ship capabilities, long-range precision fires, and expeditionary advanced base operations equipment. The Marine Corps continues to operate a diverse range of weapons unique to its amphibious mission, including amphibious assault vehicles, ship-to-shore connector craft, and specialized aviation assets.

9.1 Marine Corps Aviation

Designation	Type	Qty (approx.)	Role and Use
F-35B Lightning II	STOVL Stealth Fighter	~85	Short Take-Off/Vertical Landing variant of the F-35 operated from amphibious assault ships and austere expeditionary airfields. Provides the Marines with fifth-generation strike, air defense, and ISR capability from sea-based platforms.
F-35C Lightning II	Carrier-Based Stealth Fighter	~10	Carrier variant of the F-35 operated by Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 314 and others. Catapult-launched and arrested recovery for operations from Navy carriers alongside Navy squadrons.
F/A-18C/D Hornet	Multirole Fighter	~120	Legacy carrier-based multirole fighter providing strike, air defense, and forward air control. Being progressively replaced by F-35C. Still operates from both Navy carriers and Marine Corps shore-based squadrons.
AV-8B Harrier II+ (Retiring)	STOVL Attack	~60 (declining)	Vertical/short take-off and landing attack aircraft for close air support from amphibious ships and forward bases. Being replaced by the F-35B, with full retirement expected in the near future.
AH-1Z Viper	Attack Helicopter	~180	Twin-engine attack helicopter providing close air support, anti-armor, and armed escort for amphibious operations. Equipped with Hellfire missiles, APKWS rockets, and a 20mm cannon. Fully modernized with four-blade rotor and targeting systems.
UH-1Y Venom	Utility Helicopter	~160	Twin-engine utility helicopter for assault support, command and control, MEDEVAC, and armed reconnaissance. Shares common drivetrain and tailboom with the AH-1Z for maintenance efficiency.
CH-53K King Stallion	Heavy-Lift Helicopter	~25+ (building)	The most powerful helicopter in the Western world, designed to move heavy equipment (up to 27,000 lbs external payload) from ship to shore. Replacing the CH-53E Super Stallion. Critical for amphibious assault logistics.
MV-22B Osprey	Tiltrotor Transport	~250	Tiltrotor aircraft providing the speed and range of a turboprop with vertical lift capability. Transports Marines, equipment, and supplies from amphibious ships to inland objectives at speeds over 275 knots. Currently grounded pending crash investigation findings but expected to return to service.

Designation	Type	Qty (approx.)	Role and Use
KC-130J Super Hercules	Tanker/Transport	~45	Fleet-replenishment tanker and tactical transport supporting Marine aviation operations. Can conduct aerial refueling (helicopter and fixed-wing), cargo transport, aero-medical evacuation, and close air support with the Harvest HAWK weapons kit.

Table 22. Active USMC Aviation Assets (2026)

9.2 Marine Corps Ground and Amphibious Systems

Designation	Type	Role and Use
AAV-7A1 Amphibious Assault Vehicle	Amphibious APC	Tracked amphibious personnel carrier enabling Marines to launch from ships beyond the horizon and swim ashore. Being replaced by ACV. Can carry 25 embarked Marines plus crew of 3.
ACV (Amphibious Combat Vehicle)	Amphibious APC (Replacement)	8x8 wheeled amphibious vehicle replacing the AAV-7A1. Features improved survivability, mobility, and firepower. Variants include Personnel (ACV-P), Command and Control (ACV-C), and Recovery (ACV-R). In initial production and fielding.
LAV-25A2	Light Armored Vehicle	8x8 wheeled reconnaissance vehicle providing mobile, lightly-armed scouting capability. Armed with 25mm M242 Bushmaster chain gun. Variants include anti-tank (TOW), command, mortar, and logistics.
NMESIS (Naval/Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System)	Anti-Ship Missile Launcher	Remotely-operated, shore-based anti-ship missile system based on the JLTV chassis carrying two Naval Strike Missiles (NSM). Designed to conduct anti-ship missions from expeditionary advanced bases in contested littoral environments. Core component of Force Design 2030.
M777A2 155mm Howitzer	Towed Artillery	Primary artillery system for Marine artillery batteries (reduced from 21 to 5 batteries under Force Design). Provides indirect fire support for amphibious operations. Air-transportable by CH-53K and MV-22B.
M142 HIMARS	Rocket Artillery	Marine Corps rocket artillery providing long-range precision strike capability with GMLRS and ATACMS. Being integrated with Naval Strike Missiles for anti-ship fires from shore.
MADIS (Marine Air Defense Integrated System)	Mobile Air Defense	Integrated air defense system on JLTV with Stinger missiles, 30mm cannon, electronic warfare, and C-UAS capabilities. Designed to protect forward-deployed Marine forces from aerial threats including drones.

Table 23. Active USMC Ground and Amphibious Systems (2026)

10. Coast Guard Weapons and Vessels

The United States Coast Guard, while primarily a law enforcement and maritime safety agency under the Department of Homeland Security, operates under Title 14 as an armed force and serves as one of the five armed services of the United States. In wartime, the Coast Guard operates as part of the Navy. Coast Guard cutters, boats, and aircraft are armed for their missions of maritime law enforcement, drug interdiction, alien migration interdiction, port security, and national defense. The Coast Guard achieved historic operational results in 2025, seizing over 511,000 pounds of cocaine valued at more than $3.8 billion in the Eastern Pacific and Caribbean. Under Force Design 2028, the Coast Guard is modernizing its fleet with new offshore patrol cutters, fast response cutters, and expanding its use of unmanned surface and aerial systems.

Designation	Type	Qty	Armament / Role
Legend-Class NSC	National Security Cutter	12	57mm Mk 110 gun, 20mm CIWS, .50 cal MGs. Flagship of the fleet for major law enforcement, defense operations, and long-duration patrols.
Heritage-Class OPC	Offshore Patrol Cutter	First entering service	57mm Mk 110 gun, .50 cal MGs. Replacing the 210-foot and 270-foot Medium Endurance Cutters. The backbone of future Coast Guard operations.
Sentinel-Class FRC	Fast Response Cutter	64+	25mm Mk 38 autocannon, .50 cal MGs. Primary coastal patrol vessel for drug interdiction, migrant interdiction, search and rescue, and ports/waterways security.
Island-Class WPB	Patrol Boat	~15 (declining)	25mm Mk 38, .50 cal MGs. 110-foot patrol boats being transferred to allies or decommissioned as Sentinel-class FRCs fill roles.
Response Boat-Medium (RB-M)	Tactical Boat	~180	Armed with crew-served weapons. Fast response boats for ports, waterways, and coastal security missions.
MH-65E Dolphin / MH-60T Jayhawk	Helicopters	98 MH-65 / 45 MH-60	Maritime helicopters for search and rescue, law enforcement, drug interdiction, and maritime homeland security. Jayhawk is the medium-range helicopter; Dolphin is the short-range recovery helicopter.
HC-130J Hercules	Long-Range Patrol Aircraft	~18	Maritime patrol aircraft for long-range search and rescue, drug and migrant interdiction, marine environmental protection, and homeland security.

Table 24. Active U.S. Coast Guard Vessels and Aircraft (2026)

11. Space Force, Cyber Warfare, and Electronic Warfare

The United States Space Force, established in December 2019, is the newest branch of the U.S. armed forces responsible for organizing, training, and equipping space forces to protect U.S. and allied interests in space.

While the Space Force does not field kinetic weapons in the traditional sense, it operates a growing portfolio of counterspace capabilities, satellite systems, and space domain awareness assets that are increasingly critical to modern military operations. In December 2025, the Space Force unveiled a new weapons system naming convention using mythological themes: orbital warfare systems are named after the Norse pantheon, electromagnetic warfare systems are named after serpents, and cyber warfare systems are named after mythological figures. Additionally, the service established two new cyber defense squadrons in early 2026 to protect space launch infrastructure from cyberattacks.

System / Capability	Domain	Role and Use
Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) / Next-Gen OPIR	Space (Missile Warning)	Constellation of satellites providing early warning of ballistic missile launches worldwide. Transitioning to the Next-Generation Overhead Persistent Infrared (OPIR) system for improved sensitivity and resilience against adversary countermeasures.
GPS III / GPS IIIF	Space (Navigation/PNT)	The Global Positioning System constellation providing precise positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) services to U.S. and allied military forces worldwide. GPS III satellites add M-code military signals with enhanced anti-jam capability.
AEHF (Advanced Extremely High Frequency)	Space (Communications)	Constellation of highly secure, jam-resistant military communications satellites providing strategic and tactical communications for nuclear command and control and general military operations.
Space Electromagnetic Warfare (SEW) Systems	Space / Electronic Warfare	Classified systems designed to disrupt, degrade, or deny adversary use of space-based assets. Includes ground-based and potentially space-based electronic warfare capabilities. First Space Electromagnetic Warfare tactical operations center fielded in 2025-2026.
Counter Communications System (CCS)	Space / Electronic Warfare	Ground-based system for temporarily denying adversary satellite communications. Provides reversible effects against enemy satellite communications links during conflicts.
Cyber Defense Squadrons	Cyberspace	Newly established units (2026) dedicated to defending Space Force digital infrastructure, launch systems, and space operations networks from cyber attacks. Represents growing integration of cyber operations into space domain defense.
Ground-Based Counterspace Systems	Space (Space Domain Awareness)	Radar and optical telescopes for tracking objects in orbit, detecting threats to U.S. satellites, and maintaining space situational awareness. Includes the Space Fence (S-band radar on Kwajalein Atoll).
EC-130H Compass Call	Airborne Electronic Warfare	Modified C-130 Hercules aircraft operated by the Air Force for standoff electronic attack. Disrupts enemy command and control, communications, and air defense systems using advanced jamming and electronic warfare techniques.
EA-18G Growler	Airborne Electronic Warfare	Carrier-based electronic warfare aircraft based on the F/A-18F Super Hornet airframe. The only tactical aircraft in the U.S. arsenal dedicated to electronic warfare. Carries the ALQ-99 or Next-Gen Jammer (NGJ) and AGM-88 HARM/AARGM-ER missiles for Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD).

Table 25. Active U.S. Space, Cyber, and Electronic Warfare Systems (2026)

12. Special Operations Forces Weapons

U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) under U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) have access to specialized weapons and equipment that are often not available to conventional forces. SOF units including Navy SEALs, Delta Force, Army Special Forces (Green Berets), Rangers, and Air Force Special Operations personnel employ a customized mix of commercially procured and government-furnished weapons optimized for specific mission profiles including direct action, special reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, unconventional warfare, and foreign internal defense. In August 2025, USSOCOM awarded a $92 million contract to Lewis Machine and Tools Defense for the Medium Machine Gun program, and SOCOM continues to pursue specialized integrally suppressed carbines, multi-caliber sniper systems, and advanced night vision and fire control technology.

Designation	Type	Primary SOF Users	Role and Use
HK416 (M4 IUR)	Assault Rifle (Suppressed)	Delta Force, DEVGRU, Rangers	Piston-driven AR-15 variant preferred by elite SOF for reliability and suppressor compatibility. Often equipped with integrated suppressors, advanced optics, and infrared lasers. The foundation weapon for Tier 1 units.
HK417 / G28	Precision Rifle	Delta Force, Green Berets, DEVGRU	7.62mm precision rifle for designated marksman and sniper roles. The G28 variant serves as the basis for the M110A1 CSASS. SOF variants may include custom barrels, triggers, and suppressors.
Mk 48 Mod 0/1	Lightweight MG	Navy SEALs, Green Berets	Lightweight 7.62mm belt-fed machine gun designed specifically for SOF where weight savings are critical for dismounted operations. Replaces the heavier M240B in SOF inventory.
Mk 46 / Mk 48 UGL	Grenade Launcher	SOF units	Under-barrel grenade launchers for SOF carbines and rifles providing close-range indirect fire capability against personnel and light structures.
Mk 47 Striker 40mm AGL	Automatic Grenade Launcher	SOCOM, Rangers	Lightweight 40mm automatic grenade launcher with integrated fire control system capable of airburst programmable ammunition. Vehicle and tripod-mounted. Provides rapid, precise area suppression.
Mk 18 Mod 1 CQBR	Close-Quarters Carbine	Navy SEALs, MARSOC, DEVGRU	Short-barreled suppressed carbine optimized for close-quarters battle, maritime interdiction, and direct action missions. The definitive CQB weapon for Naval Special Warfare.
Barrett MRAD/M98B	Multi-Caliber Sniper System	SOCOM (various)	Bolt-action precision rifle convertible between .338 Lapua Magnum and 7.62x51mm. Used by SOF snipers for extended-range precision engagements in hostile environments.
SOCOM SMG (Various)	Submachine Guns	SOF units, CID units	Various 9mm/.300 BLK submachine guns including the Sig Sauer MCX, MP7 (limited), and custom configurations for close protection and covert operations where concealment is paramount.

Table 26. Selected U.S. Special Operations Weapons (2026)

13. Directed Energy Weapons and Emerging Technologies

The Department of Defense is investing heavily in directed energy weapons (DEW) including high-energy lasers (HEL), high-power microwaves (HPM), and particle beam technologies. These systems promise game-changing capabilities for air and missile defense, counter-drone operations, and shipboard protection at dramatically lower cost-per-engagement compared to traditional kinetic interceptors. In FY2025, the Department requested significant funding for DEW development, and the Army announced plans to deploy operational laser systems by FY2026. Additionally, the U.S. military is pursuing autonomous weapons systems, artificial intelligence-enabled targeting, and biotechnology applications that will transform the character of warfare in the coming decades. The rapid proliferation of inexpensive drones on modern battlefields has dramatically accelerated the need for effective directed energy countermeasures.

System / Program	Type	Status	Role and Use
HELIOS (High Energy Laser with Integrated Optical-dazzler and Surveillance)	60-150 kW HEL	Deployed on DDGs	Integrated laser system aboard Arleigh Burke-class destroyers combining high-energy laser for UAV/small boat engagement with optical dazzler for ISR and non-lethal effects.
ODIN (Optical Dazzling Interdictor, Navy)	Laser Dazzler	Deployed on DDGs, Carriers	Lower-power laser system designed to blind or confuse enemy drones, surveillance systems, and missile seekers without physical destruction. Installed on multiple surface combatants.
LWS-30 (LaWS)	30 kW HEL	Tested/Deployed (limited)	Laser Weapon System tested aboard USS Ponce and installed on some ships for C-UAS and small boat defense. Lower power but proven effective against small drones and boats.
IFPC-HEL (300 kW)	High-Energy Laser (Army)	Development/Testing	Indirect Fire Protection Capability High-Energy Laser system providing 300 kW output to counter rockets, artillery, mortars, and drones. As of March 2026, the Army is evaluating next steps after successful demonstrations.
THOR (Tactical High-power Operational Responder)	High-Power Microwave	Development/Testing	Counter-drone microwave system that can defeat multiple drones in a single engagement. Uses pulsed power to fry electronics in UAS swarms. Air Force Research Laboratory project.
Leonidas (HEPM)	High-Power Microwave	Development/Testing	High-power electromagnetic pulse system designed to defeat drone swarms and electronics at range. Compact form factor suitable for vehicle or trailer mounting. Demonstrated in combat-relevant scenarios.
Phaser (CHAMP)	Cruise Missile HPW	Operational (limited)	Counter-electronics High-powered Microwave Advanced Missile Project. Air-launched system that uses a microwave pulse to disable electronics within a targeted area without kinetic destruction. Fighter-jet delivered.
Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon (Dark Eagle)	Hypersonic Glide Vehicle	Fielding 2026	Land-based hypersonic weapons system achieving speeds in excess of Mach 5 with unpredictable trajectories. Designed to penetrate advanced integrated air defense systems. Uses Common Hypersonic Glide Body (C-HGB).

System / Program	Type	Status	Role and Use
Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS)	Naval Hypersonic	Fielding (Zumwalt)	Ship and submarine-launched hypersonic strike weapon sharing the C-HGB with Army Dark Eagle. Will equip Zumwalt-class destroyers initially, with Virginia-class submarine integration to follow.

Table 27. U.S. Directed Energy and Emerging Technology Weapons (2026)

14. Precision-Guided Munitions and Aerial Ordnance

Precision-guided munitions (PGMs) are the primary strike weapons delivered by U.S. aircraft and artillery systems. These weapons use GPS, laser, infrared, or radar guidance to achieve extremely high accuracy, often within a few meters of the target point. The proliferation of PGMs has fundamentally transformed modern warfare, enabling single-aircraft, single-weapon target destruction that previously required massed formations of bombers delivering hundreds of unguided bombs. The U.S. military maintains an extensive inventory of PGMs including the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) family, Small Diameter Bombs (SDB), laser-guided Paveway series, and specialized weapons for hardened and underground target defeat.

Designation	Type / Guidance	Weight	Platform	Role and Use
GBU-31/32/38 JDAM	GPS/INS-guided Bomb	500/1,000/2,000 lbs	All fighters and bombers	Joint Direct Attack Munition - the workhorse PGM of the U.S. military. Low-cost tail kit converts unguided bombs into precision weapons. CEP of approximately 5 meters. Used in virtually every combat operation since 1999.
GBU-39/B SDB I	GPS/INS Small Diameter Bomb	250 lbs	F-15E, F-35, B-1B, B-2	Small Diameter Bomb with GPS/INS guidance. Compact size allows multiple weapons per aircraft (4+ per bay on F-35). Penetrator warhead for stationary targets. Range of 60+ nautical miles.
GBU-53/B SDB II (StormBreaker)	Tri-Mode Seeker Bomb	250 lbs	F-15E, F-35 (future)	Next-generation Small Diameter Bomb with millimeter wave radar, imaging infrared, and semi-active laser seeker for all-weather engagement of moving and stationary targets. Network-enabled for mid-course updates.
GBU-12/16 Paveway II	Laser-Guided Bomb	500/1,000 lbs	All fighters	Laser-guided bombs using semi-active laser homing. Requires a laser designator on target or from the launching aircraft. Extremely accurate (CEP under 3 meters). Widely used for close air support requiring minimal collateral damage.
GBU-54/56 Laser JDAM	Dual-Mode GPS/Laser	500/1,000/2,000 lbs	All fighters and bombers	JDAM variant with added laser seeker for terminal guidance. Provides GPS accuracy for all-weather operations with laser precision for mobile or relocatable targets. The standard PGM for dynamic targeting.

Designation	Type / Guidance	Weight	Platform	Role and Use
GBU-57 MOP	Massive Ordnance Penetrator	30,000 lbs	B-2A Spirit only	The largest conventional bunker-busting bomb in the U.S. arsenal. GPS-guided penetrator designed to defeat deeply buried and hardened underground facilities. Carried exclusively by the B-2A bomber.
GBU-43/B MOAB	Thermobaric Bomb	21,600 lbs	MC-130 (airdropped)	Massive Ordnance Air Blast - the largest conventional bomb ever used in combat. Air-fueled thermobaric weapon designed for area saturation against personnel in caves and open terrain. GPS-guided, dropped from cargo aircraft.
M982 Excalibur	GPS-Guided Artillery Shell	155mm	M109A7, M777A2	GPS-guided artillery projectile with dual-purpose improved conventional munition warhead. CEP of approximately 4 meters at 40+ km range. Dramatically reduces ammunition expenditure compared to unguided fire missions.
M1156 PGK	GPS Fuze for Artillery	155mm / 105mm	All 155mm and 105mm howitzers	Precision Guidance Kit that converts standard 155mm and 105mm artillery shells into GPS-guided munitions. Low-cost alternative to Excalibur for semi-precise engagements at shorter ranges.
APKWS (Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System)	Laser-Guided Rocket	2.75-inch	AH-64, AH-1Z, UAS, Navy	Laser-guided 2.75-inch Hydra rocket kit providing precision strike at a fraction of the cost of Hellfire missiles. Enables engagement of point targets from helicopters and drones. Uses standard LAU launchers.

Table 28. Active U.S. Precision-Guided Munitions (2026)

15. Army Aviation

The United States Army operates the largest rotary-wing fleet in the world, with approximately 4,000 aircraft providing close air support, air assault, medical evacuation, reconnaissance, and anti-armor capabilities. Army aviation is organized into combat aviation brigades (CABs) supporting corps and division-level operations. The Army is currently modernizing its helicopter fleet through the Future Vertical Lift (FVL) program, which will replace the AH-64 Apache, UH-60 Black Hawk, and CH-47 Chinook with next-generation platforms. The Improved Turbine Engine Program (ITEP) is upgrading Apache and Black Hawk engines for increased performance at high altitudes and hot conditions.

Designation	Type	Qty (approx.)	Role and Use
AH-64E Apache Guardian	Attack Helicopter	~750	The Army's primary attack helicopter providing close air support, anti-armor, and armed reconnaissance. Equipped with Longbow radar, Hellfire missiles, APKWS rockets, 30mm chain gun, and advanced targeting systems. The E variant adds Link 16 data link and improved avionics.
UH-60M/L Black Hawk	Utility Helicopter	~1,900	The workhorse utility helicopter for air assault, MEDEVAC, command and control, and logistical transport. The M variant features improved engines, rotor, and avionics. Carries 11 troops or 6 litters.
CH-47F Chinook	Heavy-Lift Helicopter	~500	Tandem-rotor heavy-lift helicopter for moving artillery, vehicles, troops, and supplies. The F variant features advanced avionics (CAF), digital automatic flight control, and improved durability. Critical for mountain and high-altitude operations.
UH-72A Lakota	Light Utility Helicopter	~460	Light utility helicopter based on the Airbus EC145 for Homeland Security, MEDEVAC, and training missions. Unarmed. Used in National Guard and active duty support roles to free up Black Hawks for combat missions.
MH-60M Black Hawk (SOF)	Special Operations Helicopter	~100	Modified Black Hawks for special operations with increased power, fuel capacity, and survivability systems. Used by the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) "Night Stalkers."
MH-47G Chinook (SOF)	SOF Heavy-Lift Helicopter	~60	Modified Chinooks for long-range infiltration, extraction, and resupply of special operations forces. Features in-flight refueling, integrated threat warning, and terrain-following radar.
AH-6i / MH-6 Little Bird	Light Attack/Recon Helicopter	~40	Lightweight helicopters operated by 160th SOAR for close air support, direct action, and rapid insertion/extraction of small teams. The MH-6 variant can carry up to 6 personnel on external benches.
MQ-1C Gray Eagle	Armed UAV	~150	Army's primary armed unmanned aircraft for long-endurance ISR, close air support, and strike missions. Operated at division level with Hellfire missiles and guided bombs. Provides persistent coverage over battle areas.

Table 29. Active U.S. Army Aviation Assets (2026)

16. Summary of Key Modernization Programs

The U.S. military is currently engaged in the largest and most consequential modernization effort since the Reagan-era defense buildup of the 1980s. Driven by the return of great power competition with China and Russia, the Department of Defense is simultaneously modernizing all three legs of the nuclear triad, fielding hypersonic weapons, developing sixth-generation combat aircraft, expanding directed energy capabilities, and integrating artificial intelligence across all domains. The following table summarizes the major modernization programs currently underway or recently fielded across the armed forces.

Program	Branch	What It Replaces	Status / Timeline
Sentinel (GBSD) ICBM	Air Force (Global Strike)	Minuteman III ICBM	Development; IOC ~2030. New ICBM, new W87-1 warhead, modernized launch facilities.
Columbia-Class SSBN	Navy	Ohio-Class SSBN	Construction; first launch ~2027, operational ~2030. 16-missile boat with life-of-ship reactor.
B-21 Raider	Air Force	B-1B, B-2A Bombers	First flight completed 2024. Low-rate production; operational ~2027-2028.
F-47 NGAD Fighter	Air Force	F-22A Raptor	Development; designed as optionally manned 6th-gen air dominance platform. IOC ~2035.
M1E3 Abrams	Army	M1A2 SEPv3	Development phase; lighter, hybrid-electric, active protection, AI-enabled.
XM7 / XM250 (NGSW)	Army	M4A1 / M249	Fielding underway in selected units. 6.8x51mm weapons with advanced fire control.
DDG(X) Next-Gen Destroyer	Navy	Ticonderoga Cruisers (initially)	Design phase; large surface combatant with significantly increased power for future weapons.
Constellation-Class FFG	Navy	Olde frigates / LCS gap	First ship under construction. Italian FREMM-based design with 32 VLS.
Dark Eagle (LRHW)	Army	No predecessor (new capability)	Fielding expected early 2026. First U.S. hypersonic weapons system.
CPS (Conventional Prompt Strike)	Navy	No predecessor (new capability)	Integration on Zumwalt-class destroyers. Submarine variant to follow.
Future Vertical Lift (FLRAA)	Army	UH-60 Black Hawk	Bell V-280 Valor selected. Development; replacement for ~2,000 Black Hawks.
Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA)	Air Force	No predecessor (new capability)	Development; AI-enabled autonomous drones to accompany manned fighters.

Table 30. Major U.S. Military Modernization Programs (2026)

This catalog represents the most comprehensive publicly available compilation of active United States military weapons systems as of March 2026. All data has been compiled from official Department of Defense publications, Congressional Research Service reports, military fact sheets, defense industry sources, and reputable open-source intelligence analysis. Certain programs, particularly those related to special operations, intelligence collection, and nuclear weapons, contain classified elements that are necessarily excluded from this document. The reader should note that quantities are approximate and subject to change due to ongoing procurement, attrition, and retirement schedules.